

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
EASTERN DIVISION

FILED

SEP 27 2018

U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MO
ST. LOUIS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

V.

DONALD CRANGLE,

Defendant.

No. S2-4:17CR00612 RLW

SUPRESEDING INDICTMENT

COUNTS 1 THROUGH 3

(Theft of Government Funds)

The Grand Jury charges:

A. Introduction

1. The Social Security Administration administers two programs for the benefit of individuals who are disabled to the extent that they cannot work or engage in substantial gainful activities. Individuals who are disabled, and have been employed for a designated period of time, will be considered for disability payments under the agency's Disability Insurance Benefit Program, hereinafter referred to as "DIB."

2. Under the DIB program, and upon notice to the administrative agency, a disabled individual may receive benefits while employed if the disability claimant is unable to perform what the agency terms as “Substantial Gainful Activity.” Substantial Gainful Activity is employment that could generate a certain monthly income, or activity that would ordinarily generate an income. Volunteering or offering to work for less compensation in order to remain

eligible for the disability benefits are the types of activity that the Social Security Administration could consider as substantial gainful activity.

3. The United States Department of Veterans Affairs provides disability benefits for individuals who were injured while on active duty. Individual Unemployability benefits are one avenue through which veterans may receive disability compensation. Eligible veterans for the Individual Unemployability benefits, hereinafter "IU benefits," must have a service connected disability which prevents them from being able to maintain substantial gainful employment.

4. Veterans receiving IU benefits may work as long as the work is not considered substantial gainful employment. The Veterans Administration, hereinafter referred to as "the VA," defines substantial gainful employment as employment that is comparable to that of nondisabled individuals in the same community.

5. In 1985, while on active duty in the United States Army, Donald Crangle, hereinafter referred to as "Crangle," sustained a back injury during a motor vehicle accident. After his honorable discharge from the military on January 13, 1986, the VA found that the accident rendered him disabled at a rating level of 10%. On February 1, 1986, the rating resulted in a disability payment of \$68.00 per month. Crangle sought, and received, from the VA an increase in his disability rating to 30% on March 9, 1990.

6. On October 12, 1999, during his employment with the St. Louis Public School System, Crangle suffered a work-place injury that necessitated surgery, and caused him to incur more than \$147,000.00 in medical bills. In settling his workers' compensation claim, Crangle and the school system stipulated that the fall caused a disability rating of 44%. Nevertheless, Crangle remained employed until the school system eliminated his job in August 2003.

7. In October 2003, Crangle applied with the VA for increased compensation based on unemployability due to his service related back injury. According to Crangle, he became too disabled to work on July 8, 2003. Crangle's application for entitlement to individual unemployability was granted on November 12, 2003.

8. Effective December 2003, Crangle became eligible for disability payments from the Social Security Administration through DIB.

9. Crangle was certified to teach Concealed Carry Weapons classes by the National Rifle Association. He began teaching the classes in St. Louis County and St. Charles County in August 2009 until he lost his certification in March 2013. Crangle's gross earnings from the classes exceeded the amount he reported earning to the Social Security Administration and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

10. As a result of Crangle's claim of entitlement to IU benefits, between 2009 and 2013, Crangle received federal government funds in excess of \$277,000.00 from the VA.

B. Theft of Government Funds

On or about the dates listed below, within the Eastern District of Missouri, the defendant,

DONALD CRANGLE,

did embezzle, steal, purloin, and knowingly convert to his use, and the use of others, money of the United States or of any department or agency thereof, or any property made or being made under contract for the United States or any department or agency thereof, that being, Social Security disability payments in the amounts listed below:

| <u>COUNT</u> | <u>DATE</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1 | January 9, 2013 | \$1,015.00 |

| <u>COUNT</u> | <u>DATE</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 2 | February 13, 2013 | \$1,015.00 |
| 3 | March 13, 2013 | \$1,015.00 |

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 641.

COUNT 4

(Making a False Statement)

The Grand Jury realleges the facts set forth in paragraphs A Count 1 and further charges:

B. **False Statement**

On or about October 31, 2013, in the Eastern District of Missouri, the defendant,

DONALD CRANGLE,

in a matter within the jurisdiction of the Social Security Administration, a department of the United States, did knowingly and willfully make and cause to be made a false, fictitious, and fraudulent statement and representation as to a material fact and did make and use and cause to be made and used a false document, knowing the same to contain a materially false, fictitious and fraudulent statement, in that, on a document entitled, "Second Request Disability Update Report," did state and represent and cause to be stated and represented that since June 2011 he had been self-employed, those dates being between April 2012 and March 2013, and earned \$940.00 per month and that his doctor told him that he could not work, when in truth and in fact, as defendant **DONALD CRANGLE** well knew, he taught Concealed Carry Weapons classes beginning as early as August 1, 2009, his monthly earnings between April 2012 and March 2013 exceeded \$940.00, and he lost his accreditation to teach the Concealed Carry Weapons classes in March 2013.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a).

COUNT 5

(Making a False Statement)

The Grand Jury realleges the facts set forth in paragraphs A Count 1 and further charges:

B. **False Statement**

On or about February 24, 2015, in the Eastern District of Missouri, the defendant,

DONALD CRANGLE,

in a matter within the jurisdiction of the Department of Veterans Affairs, a department of the United States, did knowingly and willfully make and cause to be made a false, fictitious, and fraudulent statement and representation as to a material fact and did make and use and cause to be made and used a false document, knowing the same to contain a materially false, fictitious and fraudulent statement, in that, on a document entitled, "Department of Veterans Affairs Employment Questionnaire," did state and represent and cause to be stated and represented that between August 3, 2009 and December 2009 that he was self-employed four hours per week and that his highest gross monthly earnings were \$330.00, when in truth and in fact, as defendant **DONALD CRANGLE** well knew, he taught a Concealed Carry Weapons class more than four hours a week and that his highest gross earnings per month in 2009 exceeded the amount claimed.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a).

COUNT 6

(Making a False Statement)

The Grand Jury realleges the facts set forth in paragraphs A Count 1 and further charges:

B. **False Statement**

On or about February 24, 2015, in the Eastern District of Missouri, the defendant,

DONALD CRANGLE,

in a matter within the jurisdiction of the Department of Veterans Affairs, a department of the United States, did knowingly and willfully make and cause to be made a false, fictitious, and fraudulent statement and representation as to a material fact and did make and use and cause to be made and used a false document, knowing the same to contain a materially false, fictitious and fraudulent statement, in that, on a document entitled, "Department of Veterans Affairs Employment Questionnaire," did state and represent and cause to be stated and represented that between January 2010 and December 2010 that his highest gross earnings per month was \$500.00, when in truth and in fact, as defendant **DONALD CRANGLE** well knew, his highest gross earnings per month in 2010 exceeded the amount claimed.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a).

COUNT 7

(Making a False Statement)

The Grand Jury realleges the facts set forth in paragraphs A Count 1 and further charges:

B. **False Statement**

On or about February 24, 2015, in the Eastern District of Missouri, the defendant,

DONALD CRANGLE,

in a matter within the jurisdiction of the Department of Veterans Affairs, a department of the United States, did knowingly and willfully make and cause to be made a false, fictitious, and fraudulent statement and representation as to a material fact and did make and use and cause to be made and used a false document, knowing the same to contain a materially false, fictitious and fraudulent statement, in that, on a document entitled, "Department of Veterans Affairs Employment Questionnaire," did state and represent and cause to be stated and represented that

between January 2011 and December 2011 his highest gross earnings per month were \$350.00, when in truth and in fact, as defendant **DONALD CRANGLE** well knew, his highest gross earnings per month in 2011 exceeded the amount claimed.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a).

COUNT 8

(Making a False Statement)

The Grand Jury realleges the facts set forth in paragraphs A Count 1 and further charges:

B. **False Statement**

On or about February 24, 2015, in the Eastern District of Missouri, the defendant,

DONALD CRANGLE,

in a matter within the jurisdiction of the Department of Veterans Affairs, a department of the United States, did knowingly and willfully make and cause to be made a false, fictitious, and fraudulent statement and representation as to a material fact and did make and use and cause to be made and used a false document, knowing the same to contain a materially false, fictitious and fraudulent statement, in that, on a document entitled, "Department of Veterans Affairs Employment Questionnaire," did state and represent and cause to be stated and represented that between January 2012 and December 2012 that his highest gross earnings per month were \$1,000.00, when in truth and in fact, as defendant **DONALD CRANGLE** well knew, his highest gross earnings per month in 2012 exceeded the amount claimed.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a).

COUNT 9

(Making a False Statement)

The Grand Jury realleges the facts set forth in paragraphs A Count 1 and further charges:

B. **False Statement**

On or about February 25, 2015, in the Eastern District of Missouri, the defendant,

DONALD CRANGLE,

in a matter within the jurisdiction of the Department of Veterans Affairs, a department of the United States, did knowingly and willfully make and cause to be made a false, fictitious, and fraudulent statement and representation as to a material fact and did make and use and cause to be made and used a false document, knowing the same to contain a materially false, fictitious and fraudulent statement, in that, on a document entitled, "Department of Veterans Affairs Employment Questionnaire," did state and represent and cause to be stated and represented that between January 2013 and December 2013 that his highest gross earnings per month were \$1,000.00, when in truth and in fact, as defendant **DONALD CRANGLE** well knew, his highest gross earnings per month in 2013 exceeded the amount claimed.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a).

A TRUE BILL.

FOREPERSON

JEFFREY B. JENSEN
United States Attorney

TRACY LYNN BERRY - 014753 TN
Assistant United States Attorney